



## BONNIE LOWENTHAL

VICE MAYOR, CITY OF LONG BEACH  
FIRST DISTRICT COUNCILMEMBER

E-newsletter. Volume 1. Issue 5. August 07, 2007. (562) 570-6919. [district1@longbeach.gov](mailto:district1@longbeach.gov)

### *Greetings*

Dear Friend:

The City of Long Beach Fiscal Year 2008 Budget process is underway. I invite you to attend and participate in the upcoming budget workshops to share your thoughts on how City funds should be spent. Your thoughts and concerns will help guide the City in serving constituent needs while meeting fiscal responsibility.

Also, please join me on Wednesday, August 15, at MoLAA for free entrance at 5 pm and the East Village Association General Meeting at 6 pm. I will provide information on 1<sup>st</sup> District goals and request your input on ideas to improve the community. More information below.

Regards,

### *Events and Meetings*

#### **Wednesday, August 8**

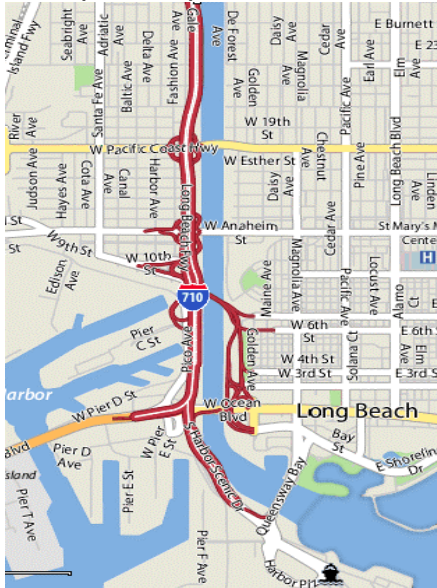
- Public Safety Advisory Commission meeting to discuss ammunition sales records proposal. Meeting at Neighborhood Resource Center, 425 Atlantic, at 7 pm.
- Disabled Resource Center, a non-profit agency dedicated to empowering people with disabilities to live independently in the community, presents a FREE workshop on What You Need To Know To Get Disability Benefits. The workshop will cover eligibility, application, appeals, and hearings. From 9:30 am – 11:00 am, at 2750 E. Spring Street, Suite 100, RSVP as space is limited to Felicity Moges, Benefits Advocate: (562) 427-1000 ext.18 or [fmoges@drcinc.org](mailto:fmoges@drcinc.org).
- Movie in the Park: Ant Bully at 14<sup>th</sup> Street Park, beginning at dusk

#### **Thursday, August 9**

- Senator Barbara Boxer to host a Field Hearing on The Marine Vessel Emissions Reduction Act of 2007, at 10:00 AM, at the Port of Los Angeles Administration Building - Board Room, 425 South Palos Verdes Street, San Pedro, CA 90731. The Marine Vessel Emissions Reduction Act of 2007 S 1499 (Boxer and Feinstein) and HR 2548 (Solis) require ships to use cleaner-burning, lower-sulfur fuels that reduce health-threatening soot and smog-producing emissions when the ships are in or near U.S. ports.

## Wednesday, August 15

- East Village Association (EVA) General Meeting featuring Guest Speaker Vice Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal who will outline 1<sup>st</sup> District goals and ask community input and ideas to improve the district, from 6 pm – 7 pm, at MOLAA, 628 Alamitos Avenue. Also, free entrance to MOLAA from 5 pm – 6 pm.



- Neighborhood Design Workshop to help improve the quality of life along the I-710 Corridor. Ideas generated from the workshops will be incorporated into the Community Livability Plan (CLP), which will serve as a guide to fund quality of life improvements for neighborhoods adjacent to, and impacted by, the I-710 freeway. Topics of discussion include: issues and conditions affecting neighborhoods, ideas for the design of community open spaces, connecting more pedestrian friendly streets and bridges, and more. The meeting in the First District is at Cesar Chavez Park Community Center, 401 Golden Avenue, at 6:30 pm.

## Thursday, August 16

- Lower-West Neighborhood Improvement Strategy Meeting with Madres Unidas Neighborhood Assn and the City of Long Beach Neighborhood Services Bureau. Featuring representatives from the Healthy Homes Program of the Health Department who will give tips on how to reduce asthma triggers, allergies, and other respiratory illnesses, safely prevent mold, cockroaches, rats and other household hazards. Translation provided. From 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Admiral Kidd Park Rec Center, 2125 Santa Fe Avenue. For more information, please contact Gilberto Contreras at 562.570.5585.

## Saturday, August 18

- Neighborhood Cleanup at 793 Gardenia from 9 am- 12 pm. For more information, please call Gonzalo Sanchez at 562.570.1114.

## Thursday, August 23

- Concert in the Park: 6:30 pm at Chavez Park: Scott Martin Latin Jazz

## Friday, August 24

- Movie in the Park: Barnyard at Chavez Park, beginning at dusk

## Wednesday, August 29

- 7<sup>th</sup> Street Community Police Center, Hellman Area Neighborhood Association, and the Craftsman Village Historic District Focus Group invite you to their monthly Community Safety and Improvement Forum. Meet the new LBPD South Division Commander Jay Johnson. At the Long Beach Senior Center Auditorium, 1150 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm.

### **Budget Workshops:**

As of May 1, 2007 voters chose to change the City Charter to increase the length of time the Mayor has to review the Budget as well as give the Mayor a line-item veto of the City Council's Adopted Budget. The City Manager's Proposed Budget is presented by the City Manager to the Mayor by July 1st, and the Mayor releases the City Manager's Proposed Budget with his recommendations to the City Council by August 1st. The City Council then has 45 days to adopt the City Manager's Proposed Budget, as amended, on or before September 15. The Mayor has five days to exercise the line-item veto, and to return the Budget to the City Council with any recommended service reductions. The City Council then has until September 30 (the last day of the fiscal year) to override the veto or adopt the Budget as amended by the Mayor.

City Manager's Proposed Fiscal Year 2008 Budget:

[http://www.longbeach.gov/finance/budget/fy04\\_budget.asp](http://www.longbeach.gov/finance/budget/fy04_budget.asp)

Mayor's FY 08 Budget Recommendations:

<http://www.longbeach.gov/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=15828>

Upcoming budget workshops:

- **Aug. 7**, during City Council meeting, 5 pm  
Budget Workshop including City Manager's Proposed Budget and Mayor's Recommendations.
- **Aug. 13**, 2:00 to 3:00 pm  
Budget Oversight Committee meets to develop final Budget recommendations
- **Aug. 14**, 3:00 to 4:30 pm  
Budget Workshop focusing on Neighborhoods and Housing; Environment; and Business and Economic Assistance.
- **Aug. 20**, 5:30 to 7:30 pm  
Budget Workshop focusing on Community Safety (including Proposition H); Health and Human Services; and Culture, Education and Leisure.
- **Aug. 21**, 3:00 to 5:00 pm  
Budget Workshop focusing on Infrastructure and Transportation (including Infrastructure Master Plan).
- **Aug. 21**, during City Council meeting  
Budget Hearing including City Council input and requests for future Budget presentations.
- **Sept. 4**, 3:00 to 5:00 pm  
Budget Workshop including Budget presentations (as requested).
- **Sept. 4**, 7:00 to 8:30 pm  
Budget Hearing including Budget presentations (as requested), City Council deliberations, first opportunity for Budget adoption.
- **Sept. 11**, 7:00 to 8:30 pm (If necessary)  
Budget Hearing including Budget presentations (as requested), City Council deliberations, Budget adoption.

## *Council Happenings*

### **AMMUNITION SALES RECORDS**

At the request of Vice Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal and Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske, on July 17, 2007, the Long Beach City Council voted to request that the Public Safety



Committee and the Public Safety Advisory Commission study and provide a recommendation on requiring Long Beach firearms ammunition vendors to keep records of ammunition sales. The proposal aims to curb illegal sales and purchases of ammunition. Both federal and state laws prohibit certain convicted individuals from purchasing ammunition, but there are no mechanisms in place to enforce these laws as no background check is required for ammunition purchases.

The Council proposal requires ammunition purchasers to provide information about their identity, including address, date of birth, drivers license, signature and thumbprint. The record would also include the date of the transaction, brand and type of ammunition purchased, and the name of the sales person who processed the transaction. Long Beach Police Department supports this proposal, and Chief Robert Luna cited three other cities who have passed similar ordinances: Los Angeles, West Hollywood, and Santa Monica.



This recorded information would assist police detectives in identifying persons who may have purchased ammunition but are legally prohibited from owning or possessing ammunition. The proposal was referred to the Public Safety Committee and the Public Safety Advisory Commission for study and recommendation by an 8 – 0 vote. The Public Safety Advisory Commission is meeting this Wednesday, August 8, at 7 pm at the Neighborhood Resource Center, 425 Atlantic.

## **REVIEW OF RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND IMPACT OF CONDO CONVERSIONS ON VACANCY RATES**

On Tuesday, July 24, 2007, the Long Beach City Council voted 8 –0 to request that the Planning Commission review the current procedures related to tenant notification and payment of relocation assistance due to condo conversions. The Council also requested a review of the impact of conversions on the City's vacancy rate and displaced tenants. The review process was directed to include opportunities for public input and discussion, with the findings and recommendations forwarded to the City Council for consideration.

Vice Mayor Lowenthal introduced the request for a review after the Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, July 19, in which staff provided a report on the status of condo conversion activity occurring in the City of Long Beach. A number of residents and community activists spoke at the meeting to request a more tenant-friendly relocation assistance process, asserting that the program is not foolproof and may allow for landlords and developers to sidestep providing relocation assistance.

The City of Long Beach currently has a relocation assistance program requiring condo conversion applicants to provide \$3796 to very low and low-income households to mitigate the impact of displacement. But a number of factors, including exceptions, waivers, and violations of the ordinance may prevent tenants from receiving the assistance.

## LONG BEACH BREAKWATER RECONNAISSANCE STUDY

Long Beach City Council voted to allocate funds of up to \$100,000 from the Tidelands Fund for a Long Beach Breakwater Reconnaissance Study. The City of Long Beach expects that the Port of Long Beach will fund approximately \$50,000 of the study.



The Long Beach breakwater was built in the 1940s and is one of three offshore barriers that protect the Port of Long Beach. In the past decade, numerous questions have been posed regarding the breakwater's role in water pollution.

On July 5, 2005, the City Council voted to request the Federal government to conduct a first-phase Reconnaissance Study to determine

if there was an interest in a reconfiguration study of the Long Beach breakwater. A Federal appropriation request was made to fund this study. This appropriation request, as well as attempts to secure grants to fund the study, has been unsuccessful. Supporters of a Reconnaissance Study have cited the availability of Tidelands funds as a potential source of funding.

The study will focus on the reconfiguration of the breakwater, as opposed to a full removal, which may cause damage to homes and other structures. Reconfiguration could involve several scenarios, including removing sections or lowering the height of the breakwater. The Reconnaissance study is vital in determining the City's next steps.

## CITY COMMISSIONS

Would you like to influence how City policy is made? Do you have ideas about how to make our community a better place to work, live, or play? If so, the City of Long Beach wants YOU to apply to be on a City commission. Currently, there are many vacant commission positions, and so this is a great time to apply. Some of the vacancies include positions on the Airport Advisory Commission, the Long Beach Transportation Company Board of Directors, and the Board of Health and Human Services, among others.

For a **general overview** of City Commissions, go to:

<http://www.longbeach.gov/mayor/commissions/organization.asp>

For a **detailed explanation** of the nature and composition of each Commission, go to:

<http://www.longbeach.gov/mayor/commissions/list.asp>

For a list of **2007 vacancies**, go to:

<http://www.longbeach.gov/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=7453>

For the **application**, go to the City Clerk Department on the lobby level of City Hall or go to: <http://www.longbeach.gov/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=7073>

Please submit a complete original application for each position you are interested in to:

Office of Mayor Bob Foster  
Attention: Carmen Viramontes  
333 West Ocean Blvd., 14th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

If you still have questions about commissions or the application process after consulting these resources, please contact Carmen Viramontes in Mayor Bob Foster's Office at [carmen\\_viramontes@longbeach.gov](mailto:carmen_viramontes@longbeach.gov) or at (562) 570-6801 with any questions you may have about the application process.

## Community News

### LONG BEACH COMMUNITY POLICE ACADEMY AND SPANISH POLICE ACADEMY ARE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS



Through the Community Police Academy, participants will gain an understanding of the Long Beach Police Department as well as insight to the Criminal Justice System. Police Department experts in areas of patrol operations, investigations, gang enforcement, juvenile operations, communications and other related fields will provide information throughout the course. In addition, participants will be able to participate in a variety of department tours and have the opportunity to participate in a ride-along. In order to participate, you (1) should reside or work in Long Beach, (2) must pass fingerprint check, (3) only permitted to miss two class sessions, and (4) must be 21 years of age (or currently enrolled at CSULB or Long Beach City College).

The Community Police Academy is a 15-week program starting on August 29 that introduces students to the Long Beach Police Department and the criminal justice system. The class meets on Wednesdays from 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm, at the LBPD Police Academy at 7290 E. Carson Street, and on one Saturday for a department tour and firearms demonstration. For more information or questions, call the Community Police Academy Coordinator, Sergeant Gail Dennison at 562.570.5910 or [gail\\_dennison@longbeach.gov](mailto:gail_dennison@longbeach.gov).

The goal of the Spanish Language Community Police Academy is to develop partnerships between the Spanish speaking community and the Long Beach Police Department. Class begins Thursday Sept. 13, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at 400 W. Broadway, and will meet every Thursday for 14 weeks. Interested members of the Spanish Language Community Police Academy must complete an application and return it to PSS Nicole Avalos Long Beach Police Department, Community Relations Division, 400 West Broadway, Long Beach, CA 90802. After eligibility is confirmed, applications will be scheduled for live-scan fingerprinting. If you have any questions or need further information, please call PSS Nicole Avalos at (562) 570-7229 or e-mail [nicole\\_avalos@longbeach.gov](mailto:nicole_avalos@longbeach.gov).



## **CONSERVE WATER**

The Long Beach Water Department has issued a citywide Declaration of Immediate Extraordinary Water Conservation. This is a call for an immediate voluntary increase in water conservation, as a precaution to forestall or lessen the local impact of a potential water supply shortage. All water customers are asked to (1) eliminate landscape over watering and all water runoff, (2) reduce time in the shower and install a low flow showerhead, and (3) check for leaks. Free low flow showerheads are available at various locations throughout the City, including through each Council office. To receive a free low flow showerhead, please contact the Office of Vice Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal at 562.570.6919.



The Long Beach Water Department launched a "Water Waster" HOTLINE & email through which Long Beach residents may report water-use violations. Customers are encouraged to report violations of City water-use ordinances, particularly over-watering of landscapes beyond saturation, which causes significant water runoff. Water Department customers may now report violations by calling (562) 570-2455 or by sending an email message to [WATERWASTER@lbwater.org](mailto:WATERWASTER@lbwater.org). Upon calling, customers will receive brief direction on how they may report a violation, to include: what the violation is, the location and/or address of the violation and the specific day or days the violation occurred.

## **CITIZENSHIP ASSISTANCE CLASSES AT THE WILLMORE POLICE CENTER**

Long Beach residents who are working to obtain U.S Citizenship or just interested in United States history and government are encouraged to participate in free classes at the Willmore Community Police Center. The classes are open to anyone 18 years of age or older and will be held on Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, starting on Monday, August 27, and continuing for 15 weeks.



The classes are designed to help individuals:

- Learn about United States history and government
- Review potential questions given on the US Citizenship test
- Develop English language skills

"I encourage all interested residents to participate in these free classes to strengthen their language skills and gain a full understanding of the types of questions asked on the US Citizenship test," stated Vice Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal. "I am working with the Willmore Community Police Center to ensure that information about the many resources offered by the City of Long Beach will be available to the class participants."

To sign up for more information, please call or stop by the Willmore Community Police Center, 910 Daisy Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90813, and 562.570.1146.



## **EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE WASHINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD**

The office of Vice Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal, Long Beach Police Department, City Prosecutor's Office, Neighborhood Services and Code Enforcement teamed up for the Washington School Neighborhood Stencil, Cleanup and Public Safety Event at 14<sup>th</sup> Street Park. City staff and volunteers painted street addresses onto garages facing alleys for easy identification. Neighbors, Police and Fire will be able to identify properties from the alley in the case of an emergency.



## **NEW TRAFFIC LIGHT TURNED ON AT BUSY DOWNTOWN INTERSECTION**

Long Beach - After years of watching accidents happen at 4th Street and Chestnut Avenue, Tom Martin finally got his wish. The community activist was on hand today to "flip the switch," activating the new traffic light, along with community members of the Willmore City Heritage Association and Public Works officials.



left to right: Niki Tennant, Tom Martin, and Dave Roseman

"Tom Martin is to be congratulated for his perseverance and determination to improve his neighborhood," said Vice Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal, who represents the area. "With the support of his neighbors, our office was able to keep this project moving; so quickly in fact, that it became a reality a year sooner than expected!"

Because so much development has occurred in the downtown over the past few years, the signal was paid for through development fees, enabling its installation on an expedited basis, undoubtedly saving lives at this busy downtown intersection.

"Kudos go to Dave Roseman, our City Traffic Engineer, for his diligent shepherding of this process," said Lowenthal. "We are fortunate to have such caring city employees who go the extra mile to help our neighborhoods."



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*Vice Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal hopes to stay in touch with you electronically through e-newsletters. If you wish to be removed from the list, please email [rhlee@longbeach.gov](mailto:rhlee@longbeach.gov) with "remove" in the subject line. If you wish to contact the Office of Vice Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal to discuss issues or concerns, please call 562.570.6919 or email [district1@longbeach.gov](mailto:district1@longbeach.gov). Thank you.*